



**CALIFORNIA
HIGH-SPEED RAIL
AUTHORITY**

BRIEFING: APRIL 2010 EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA ITEM #4

TO: Chairman Pringle and Members Kopp and Florez

FROM: Carrie Pourvahidi, Executive Director

DATE: 04/01/10

RE: Approval of Strategic Plan

Introduction

In recent months, Authority staff has been developing a strategic plan for the organization. Staff has pursued this effort both because it is a valuable tool in setting milestones for organizational outcomes and because it is standard protocol for California agencies and departments to submit these plans to the Department of Finance.

Authority staff proposes to bring the strategic plan before the Authority Board for approval for submission to the Department of Finance.

The Purpose of the Strategic Plan

Strategic planning is a standard process undertaken by organizations to identify and plan for the achievement of desired outcomes. It provides a framework for working toward common goals and utilizing performance measures to monitor progress. Since the mid-1990s, the Department of Finance has been requiring departments to develop, update, and submit these plans. Although the Authority is not a department, the Authority can benefit from the adoption of a strategic plan and from submitting it to the Department of Finance.

The Content of the Strategic Plan

The content of this strategic plan follows the Department of Finance Strategic Planning Guidelines and contains standard content, specifically: vision, mission, values, goals, objectives, performance measures, and strategies. The plan also spans a standard time horizon of three years.

The Strategic Planning Process

- Input sought from staff, board, and external stakeholders: The strategic planning process began in late August 2009, when staff, board members, and external stakeholders were invited to participate in a survey that was conducted to identify the organization's strategic issues—those internal and external factors that the Authority should consider as it identified its goals and milestones over the next three years.
- Input and plan point to organizational and project effectiveness: the plan builds on two key areas identified in the survey—that of successful development of the organizational infrastructure and successful planning and implementation of the rail project. As such, the plan presents these as its two primary goals, with specific outcomes associated with each, and timebound performance measures for ensuring accountability and tracking of the Authority's progress.
- Key staff met repeatedly to develop the plan: the consultant facilitated a series of meetings with key Authority staff over a period of seven months to develop the plan and then vetted the plan with all staff for additional input and feedback.
- Next steps are to implement the plan: upon approval by the board of the strategic plan, Authority staff will work with the consultant to establish a process for implementing the plan's strategies and monitoring outcomes.

Staff Recommendation

Approve adoption of this strategic plan and submission of the plan to the Department of Finance.

Attachment:

- ✓ California High-Speed Rail Authority Strategic Plan, 2010-2013.
- ✓ Resolution HSRA10-018